



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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CONTACT: Lynn Whitehouse
619-236-5821

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS A PREVIEW SCREENING OF “UP THE YANGTZE”

POV(Point of View) Film Highlights Changes and Costs Fueling China’s Economic Leap

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library, Media Arts Center San Diego and the San Diego Asian Film Festival will screen *Up the Yangtze*, by Yung Chang, on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is FREE to the public.

Nearing completion, China's massive Three Gorges Dam is altering the landscape and the lives of people living along the fabled Yangtze River. Countless ancient villages and historic locales will be submerged, and 2 million people will lose their homes and livelihoods. With cinematic sweep, *Up the Yangtze* explores lives transformed by the biggest hydroelectric dam in history, a hotly contested symbol of the Chinese economic miracle. *Up the Yangtze* was an Official Selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. An EyeSteelFilm/National Film Board of Canada production in association with American Documentary | P.O.V. (Point of View). A co-presentation with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM).

Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Yung Chang is a graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York City, where he studied the Meisner technique. He makes innovative use of this methodology in his first feature-length documentary, *Up the Yangtze*, in which the highly contested Three Gorges Dam forms a dramatic and unsettling backdrop for a moving and richly detailed narrative of a peasant family negotiating unprecedented historic changes. Drawing inspiration from contemporary Asian cinema and post-war neo-realism, he crafts a compassionate account of peasant life and a powerful documentary narrative of contemporary China, directing it all with insight and cinematic flair.

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Since 1988, PBS' POV series has brought the best of independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America's most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. *Up the Yangtze* will be shown on KPBS, Sunday, October 19th, at 10:30 p.m.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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